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Standards Committee Summons and Agenda

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1 May 2024.

Jeremy Chambers

Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer
23 April 2024

Cllr Hilary Moore (Chair)	Cllr Bill Brown (Vice Chair)
Amanda De Ryk	James Rathbone
Liz Johnston-Franklin	Eva Stamirowski
Aliya Sheikh	Andre Bourne
Sophie Davis	Rosie Parry
Fasil Bhatti (co-optee)	Gill Butler (co-optee)
David Roper-Newman (co-optee)	Cathy Sullivan (co-optee)
Leslie Thomas (co-optee)	Joy Walton (co-optee)

Wednesday, 1 May 2024

7.00 pm

Civic Suite

Catford Road

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: committee@lewisham.gov.uk

Part 1

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MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 7.56 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Hilary Moore (Chair), Bill Brown (Vice-Chair), Peter Bernards, Will Cooper, Rosie Parry, James Rathbone, Aliya Sheikh and Eva Stamirowski

ALSO PRESENT: Jeremy Chambers – Director of Law and Corporate Governance, Emma Campbell Smith – Head of Governance and Committee Services.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was MOVED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to elect Cllr Hilary Moore as Chair and Cllr Bill Brown as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 25 May 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bhatti, Hilary Moore (Chair), Bill Brown (Vice-Chair), Peter Bernards, Will Cooper, Brenda Dacres, Rosie Parry, James Rathbone and Eva Stamirowski

ALSO PRESENT: Jeremy Chambers - Director of Law and Corporate Governance and Clare Weaser – Committee Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Leslie Thomas.

1. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 5 July 2022 and 29 March 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Appointment of Standard Sub Committees

RESOLVED that the appointments to Standards Sub Committees be as follows:-

Standards Sub- Committee A – Councillors Cooper, Dacres, Moore, Onikosi and Parry.

3 Co-optees able attend the next meeting of this Sub - Committee on 28 June 2023,

Standards Sub-Committee B- Councillors Bernards, Brown, Rathbone, Sheikh and Stamirowski.

3 remaining Co-optees.

4. Work Programme

4.1 The Monitoring Officer presented the report. He suggested the following items be included in a work programme for Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24:-

- Every meeting to receive an update from the Monitoring Officer and/or the Deputy Monitoring Officer in relation to current complaints.
- Review of the Member Code of Conduct – A new model had been introduced 2 years ago. The Monitoring Officer outlined how this had been received by other local authorities and recommended that Standards Committee should have a detailed discussion on it. The

Council had a procedure for the Member Code of Conduct, but it was not part of the constitution. The procedure needed to be reviewed to ensure it was fit for purpose and then added as an appendix to the Code of Conduct in the constitution.

- Trend analysis of complaints to be considered annually - The number of complaints was currently low but if this increased, the trend analysis could be reviewed more often.
- Training requirements for members of the Committee and co-optees – This would be built around the work programme for the next year.

4.2 The Monitoring Officer advised that when an update was submitted to the main Standards Committee on complaints, it would be deliberately vague and high level to ensure that members could not be accused of being prejudiced by knowing too much about the matter in advance.

4.3 In response to a member question, the Monitoring Officer said that he would check the constitution with regard to an annual review of the Council's whistleblowing policy. If it was in the constitution, it would be reviewed by this Committee and would be included on the work programme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the items suggested by the Monitoring Officer for inclusion in the work programme be agreed.

5. Constitution Review update

5.1 The Monitoring Officer presented the report. He advised members of the following:-

- Phase 1 of the review of the constitution was agreed in November 2022
- Phase 2 was agreed in March 2023
- Phase 3 would commence in 2 weeks and would consider the Council procedure rules, committee procedure rules, Licensing committee and the Scheme of Delegation. A report would then be submitted to the Constitution Working Party and then to a Council meeting in the Autumn.
- Phase 4 would consider member code of conduct, protocol for officer/member relations, other issues including planning protocols and catch-all of outstanding items following the first 3 phases.

5.2 The Monitoring Officer said that in order to fit in with the wider constitutional programme, he considered it to be important that the Standards Committee work programme ran to feed into phase 4 in parallel with phase 3. The Code of Conduct must be considered by Standards Committee, therefore he said it would be sensible for it to be included in the work programme whilst phase 3 of the constitutional review was on going. This would ensure that by phase 4, at the end of Autumn, Standards Committee would already have done the necessary work. The Member Code of Conduct would be considered between now and the end of the year.

- 5.3 The Chair reminded members of the Committee that the date of the next meeting had changed and would be held on 28 June 2023 at 7pm. It would be a meeting of Standards Sub Committee A.



Standards Committee

Declarations of Interest

Date: 1 May 2025

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Chief Executive

Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1. Summary

1.1. Members must declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda. There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests.

1.2. Further information on these is provided in the body of this report.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

3. Disclosable pecuniary interests

3.1 These are defined by regulation as:

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in

respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).

- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member’s knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - (a) that body to the member’s knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
 - (b) either:
 - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

4. Other registerable interests

4.1 The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

5. Non registerable interests

5.1. Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members’ Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member’s child attends).

6. Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation

- 6.1. Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- 6.2. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph 6.3 below applies.
- 6.3. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- 6.4. If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- 6.5. Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

7. Sensitive information

- 7.1. There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

8. Exempt categories

- 8.1. There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-
- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
 - (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor
 - (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
 - (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members

- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception).



Standards Committee

Proposal to Award Honorary Aldermanic Titles

Date: 1 May 2024

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Director of Law & Corporate Governance

Outline and recommendations

The Standards Committee is asked to consider proposals to award the following former members Honorary titles of Alderman, Alderwoman or Alder:

- (1) Jim Malory
- (2) Obajimi Adefiranye
- (3) Mee Ling Ng
- (4) Stella Jeffrey

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The statutory rights to confer Honorary titles of Alderman and Alderwoman are given under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. This provision gives the rights to councils to confer the title of honorary alderman or alderwoman on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent, exceptional and distinguished services to the council, above such duties as are expected of councillor, as past members of that council.

The Council adopted a revision of The Constitution, to include explicit option of conferring the title of Honorary Alder at full council on 2 March 2022. The Council also adopted the Protocol on Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman, Alderwoman and Alder to Ex-Members of the Authority. This protocol establishes the basis on which valid aldermanic awards could be made. It specifies that nominations must initially be considered by Standards Committee.

The Council has not previously exercised its rights to confer former members with aldermanic titles. Standards Committee has not previously considered nominations of former councillors to receive aldermanic titles.

1. Summary

- 1..1. This report recommends the award of Honorary Alderman, Honorary Alderwoman or Honorary Alder to Jim Malory, Obajimi Adefiranye, Mee Ling Ng & Stella Jeffrey and asks the Standards Committee to agree the awards.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to agree that pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- 2..1. Jim Malory is to be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman, Honorary Alderwoman or Honorary Alder.
- 2..2. Obajimi Adefiranye is to be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman, Honorary Alderwoman or Honorary Alder.
- 2..3. Mee Ling Ng is to be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman, Honorary Alderwoman or Honorary Alder.
- 2..4. Stella Jeffrey is to be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman, Honorary Alderwoman or Honorary Alder.

3. Policy Context

- 3..1. The Council's Corporate Strategy makes an explicit commitment to strong corporate governance. The ability to retain the involvement of experienced former members could lend assurance to the decision-making process.

4. Background

- 4..1. Under the provisions of Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 a principal council may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary alderman or alderwoman or alder on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent, exceptional and distinguished services to the council, above such duties as are expected of councillor, as past members of that council.
- 4..2. Jim Mallory was first elected in 1986 and was Lewisham councillor for 28 years, representing Grinling Gibbons in Deptford for 16 years and Lee Green for 12 years. From 1995 to 1998 he was Leader of the Council. At the Town Hall he was an innovative and effective Committee Chair, who oversaw and led on work as diverse as introducing wheelie bins to the borough – the first Council in England to adopt them – to helping Lewisham schools adapt to life and fewer resources under the Council after the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority. As Leader he worked to widen the support for and influence of the community and voluntary sectors, and later went on to help create local assemblies as a member of Mayor Steve Bullock's sustainable communities' commission. In the community he has been a committed activist, joining and founding many organisations, most notably as founding Chair (2010-22) of Lee Green Lives, which runs a community centre and supports other local groups. Through Lee Green Assembly, he was responsible for securing funding for Manor Park and other local services. He has also been a trustee for Deptford Challenge Trust since 2007, and chaired Abbey Manor College governors for the borough's excluded students since 2006.
- 4..3. Obajimi Adefiranye was first elected a Lewisham Councillor in 1990 – the first African on the Council and he served for 28 years. During that time, he was Chair (Civic Mayor) of the Council for 7 years. Naturally he also served competently and effectively on several Council committees chairing several of them. He was a Lewisham Schools/College governor for over four decades and he represented Lewisham Council on the Deptford Challenge Trust, in addition to being Council's nominee to several external bodies including the ALG, Albany Theatre; Lewisham Parochial Charities, Lewisham Law Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Lewisham Race Equality Council, Community Health Council and the Local Authorities Working Party on South Africa. As Chair of the Race Committee, he initiated the Council's first participation in Black History Month. He served as the Chair of the National Association of Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority Councillors for many years during his time on the Council and

continues to hold this position to this day. Obajimi was the London Borough of Lewisham's Delegate on the Intercultural Cities (ICC), a Council of Europe-funded body with membership from various continents for a few years. The reputation of Lewisham as a welcoming, integrative and diverse city was greatly enhanced, recognised and appreciated by his contributions to the ICC meetings during his membership of this international body.

- 4..4. Mee Ling Ng represented the Evelyn area for 4 terms between 1986 and 2002 and served as Deputy Leader. She has contributed greatly and continues to contribute to Lewisham Communities. Part her legacy is her support of the Lewisham Indochinese Centre in Deptford ward which is one of the very few, and possibly the largest bilingual Chinese-English nursery as well as having elder care and youth activities. She also supported the Vietnamese Family Partnership in Evelyn ward which is currently undertaking work to commemorate ESEA heritage across Deptford.
- 4..5. Stella Jeffrey represented Lewisham Central for two terms between 2010 and 2018. Along with being an exceptional councillor, Stella Jeffrey has been a phenomenal leader locally not only in Lewisham Central but also in her home ward of Ladywell. She is Chair of the St Marys Parochial Charitable Board. Former Director of Lewisham Youth Theatre. Stella is active in the St Mary's church community and choral group, who perform at civic events. Stella is also an active and supportive member of the Positive Aging Council. Stella has dedicated herself to helping the most vulnerable in Lewisham consistently over many years, she has sat as a trustee for a number of charities, including Lewisham Relief in Need Charity, The London Churches Fund for Destitute Asylum Seekers, Lewisham General Trust Charity, Lewisham Almshouse Charity of John Thackeray, Lewisham Educational Charity and Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers, to name just a few. There is probably a lot more that Stella does within various communities in Lewisham, but true to her nature, she quietly and unassumingly gives her time and supports in any way she can.

5. Financial implications

- 5..1. Recipients will each be given a certificate conferring the title, a badge of office, and their name will be placed on an honours board in the Civic Suite and the Council website. It is anticipated an Extraordinary General Meeting of Council will take place on 15 May 2024, directly preceding the scheduled meeting of Council. All costs concerning the awarding of four aldermanic titles can be met from existing budgets.

6. Legal implications

- 6..1. Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at

a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary alderman or alderwoman or alder on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent, exceptional and distinguished services to the council, above such duties as are expected of a councillor, as past members of that council.

7. Risk Implications

7..1. There are no specific implications.

8. Equalities implications

8..1. There are no specific implications.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

9..1. There are no specific implications.

10. Crime and disorder implications

10..1. There are no specific implications.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

11..1. There are no specific implications.

12. Background papers

March 2 2022 – Adoption of Protocol for the Awards of Honorary Alderman Alderwoman and Alder titles:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s96671/Aldermanic%20Protocol.pdf>

March 2 2022 – Protocol on Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman, Alderwoman and Alder to Ex-Members of the Authority:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s92647/Appendix%20Aldermanic%20Protocol.pdf>

13. Report author(s) and contact

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Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

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Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance

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